THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SATURDAY • OCTOBER 03, 2020 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 16 • LATE CITY EDITION

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'NEXT YEAR FOR SURE', SAYS MUSK ON TESLA'S INDIA ENTRY

Tesla Inc chief executive Elon Musk on Friday said the US electric carmaker will make a foray into Indian market in 2021

ANNOUNCEMENT THROUGH TWITTER

Musk revealed his plan to bring Tesla to India next year through Twitter, tagging a post carrying the photograph of a T-shirt with the message "India wants Tesla". He was replying to a tweet from a Twitter handle called Tesla India Club, which told the billionaire, "Hey Elon, just thought we'd put this out here. We wait and hang on to hope wrt "hopefully soon"

COULD GEL WITH MODI'S E-CAR PUSH

- The announcement comes at a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is aggressively promoting the use of e-vehicles
- Musk was asked about India entry last year as well. "Would love to be there this year. If not, definitely next!" he said in March 2019
- India will be the next frontier for Tesla after its Chinese foray

495%

RALLY IN TESLA SHARES THIS YEAR, PUSHING MARKET VALUE TO $400 BN

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Gas turbine explodes at power plant, 15 injured

The 370-MW KPCL unit was to begin supplying 20 MW power to the grid from Friday; The site has been closed indefinitely

BOSKY KHANNA & MANJU SHETTAR @ Bengaluru

AN undetected oil leak caused a blast, leading to a fire, in the gas turbine chamber at the Yelahanka Gas Power Plant of the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) in Yelahanka New Town around 3.30 am on Friday. Fifteen KPCL employees, 11 of them ground engineers and one executive engineer, sustained burns.

Firefighters battle flames at the KPCL power plant, which witnessed a gas turbine blast, at Yelahanka in Bengaluru on Friday | EXPRESS

The power plant was to start generating 20-30 MW of power on Friday and supply to the grid. The capacity of the plant is 370 MW and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) was executing the project for which General Electric (GE) is supplying compressed natural gas (CNG).

KPCL Director (Technical) C Venugopal informed *The New Indian Express* that the incident occurred when oil started to leak from the bearings in the gas turbine chamber. As it reached a flashpoint, it caught fire with a blast and flames coming out of the chamber. The fire and heat built up so much inside the gas turbine chamber that its door was thrown open by sheer pressure just as the engineers and the workers were rushing towards it to check what had happened. A massive flame burst out of the door, causing the unsuspecting engineers and workers to suffer burns.

The injured were admitted to MS Ramaiah, Aster CMI and St John's Hospital in Bengaluru, and KPCL will bear the cost of their treatment. Two of them were reportedly discharged after treatment.

Venugopal explained that the project has been designed in such a way that in case of excessive heat, the gas supply to chamber number-2 and the unit is cut off automatically. Had this not happened, the damage would have been much more as the entire gas line would have exploded. P2

Trump tests +ve weeks before polls

Could impact re-election chances as he consistently underplayed Covid threat; would have to be in quarantine for at least two weeks, ahead of the Oct 15 televised debate with Biden

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A fresh wave of uncertainty swept across the globe on Friday after US President Donald Trump revealed he and first lady Melania Trump had mild symptoms of Covid-19, roiling markets **(See graphic)** and casting a shadow over the November 3 presidential polls.

While the Trumps went into quarantine and the President continued to work from his family quarters in the White House, him being 74 and clinically obese put him at a higher risk of serious complications from a virus that has already infected 75 lakh citizens and killed over two lakh in the US. At present, the US has over 25 lakh active cases.

Before testing positive, he had travelled extensively for his re-election campaign, worrying officials about the full scale of the outbreak. While many White House and other senior officials were undergoing tests, the process of tracing the President's recent contacts was still on.

The infection could impact Trump's electoral chances, as he had spent much of the year downplaying the threat of the virus and avoided wearing masks for the longest time.

Biden, Pence test -ve

Vice President Mike Pence and Democrat presidential nominee Joe Biden tested negative for Covid. Under 25th Amendment, if the President in incapacitated medically, he has the option of temporarily transferring power to the Vice President, which he can reclaim whenever he can certify that he is fit for duty

During the first televised debate against his Democrat opponent Joe Biden on Wednesday morning IST, Trump had mocked him, saying: "I don't wear masks like him. Every time you see him, he's got a mask. He could be speaking 200 feet away from me, and he shows up with the biggest mask I've ever seen."

Biden, who spent 90 minutes on stage with Trump during the debate, and his wife Jill, tested negative. He is 77. P9

WALL STREET CRACKS

Dow Jones Industrial Average	S&P 500	Nasdaq
fell 298.21 points (1.07%) to 27,518.69	lost 28.33 points (0.83%) to 3,352.67	dropped 276.49 points (2.44%) to 11,050.02

OIL SLIPS

WTI Crude Oil 2.76% to $37.65/bbl ↓ Brent Crude 2.81% to $39.78/bbl

(Figures as of 9.40 PM IST on Friday)

UNEMPLOYMENT WORSENS

22 mn jobs wiped out during pandemic

US companies added just **661,000 jobs** in September, marking it the 3rd straight month of slower hiring

Jobs were added: August 1.5 mn; July 1.8 mn; June 4.8 mn

Unemployment rate in September fell to 7.9% from 8.4% in August

14.7% fall since April

3.8 mn laid off workers feel their jobs are gone forever

US judge nixes H-1B visa ban

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi / Bengaluru

A US federal judge on Thursday nixed Donald Trump's suspension of non-immigrant visas including the coveted H-1B — the most sought-after visa by Indian IT professionals — saying the President does not have the power to tinker with immigration laws passed by Congress.

The judicial action comes as a major relief for scores of Indian IT professionals, who had voiced their opposition to the visa suspension. In the US, around six lakh people hold H-1B visas with Indians making up around 70%. Annually, around 85,000 Indians are issued the visa which gives them the right to work in the US.

Trump had issued an executive order in June 2020 suspending the entry of foreign nationals on H-1B, H-2B and J and L visas till December 31.

EXPRESS READ

Exports rise 5.27% in September

New Delhi: After contracting for six months, the country's exports grew by 5.27 per cent year-on-year to $27.4 billion in September, and trade deficit narrowed to $2.91 billion. P10

Bihar polls: Congress, allies decide on seats

Patna: The seat-sharing of the Mahagathbandhan for the Bihar elections was finalised on Friday. According to sources, Congress is contesting 70 seats. The Left parties are expected to field 30 candidates. P8

UNLOCK 5.0 FROM OCT 15

WHAT MAY OPEN OUTSIDE CONTAINMENT ZONES

- Cinema halls at **50%** seating capacity with SOPs
- Swimming pools for trained sportspersons with SOPs
- B2B units and entertainment parks
- Social gatherings of above **100** people allowed with conditions
- Lockdown till **Oct 31** in containment zones

Decision on schools re-opening to be taken in graded manner after Oct 15

P3

VICTIM'S VILLAGE SEALED; HATHRAS SP SUSPENDED

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

AS the fire of protest over the Hathras gang-rape and murder spread on Friday, the police clamped down further on the victim's family, cutting off all communication and turning the entire Boolgarhi village into a fortress. Later in the evening, an embattled Uttar Pradesh government suspended the district SP and four other policemen amid mounting criticism over the government's handling of the matter.

The family is allegedly holed up inside their home, with heavy police presence there, while all entries to the village have been completely sealed. No outsiders, including politicians and mediapersons, are being allowed to speak to the family and a tight security cordon has been laid around 1.5 km of the village's periphery.

A cousin of the 20-year-old Dalit girl, who managed to slip away and speak to media on Friday morning, alleged the police had taken away the mobile phones of all family members. He said the policemen were not allowing anybody to step out of the house. "Our family is being threatened. My uncle asked me to try to reach out to the media. He was assaulted by the DM yesterday and fell unconscious," the boy alleged.

Members of various organisations and political parties throng Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Friday to mark their protest against the brutal murder and alleged gang-rape of a young woman in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras | PRAVEEN NEGI

Sub-Judicial Magistrate Prem Prakash denied charges of intimidation and confinement of the victim's family. On the restriction over entry of media and political leaders in the village, he said it was done not to hamper the SIT probe which is under way. Hathras Additional SP Prakash Kumar told reporters that no political representatives or media personnel will be allowed till SIT completes its probe.

Protests flared up across the country, with Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra attending a prayer meeting organised by the Valmiki community in Delhi and asserting that the party will continue to exert pressure on the government. Hundreds also gathered at Jantar Mantar in protest. P7

IMAGE DENTED. LET MEDIA MEET FAMILY: UMA BHARTI

UP police's "suspicious" action in the Hathras incident has dented the image of the BJP and the state government, said senior party leader Uma Bharti. She requested UP CM Yogi Adityanath to allow mediapersons and politicians to meet the victim's family

CHEAPER PRICES

Reforms open DK doors to Kerala land buyers

VINCENT D'SOUZA @ Mangaluru

THE amendments to the Land Reforms Act, which liberalise land ownership in Karnataka, has come as a blessing in disguise for many Keralites. Since many years now, there has been a steady rise in the number of people from Kerala purchasing land in the border district of Dakshina Kannada and an upward trend is expected in the coming days.

What draws Keralites to Dakshina Kannada is the fact that land is cheaper compared to their native state where it is quite high because of the huge foreign remittances. In the interiors of Kadaba, Belthangady, Bantwal and Puttur taluks, an acre of land costs about ₹8 lakh and many say if a Keralite sells 10 cents of land in his home state, he can buy an acre in Dakshina Kannada with the same money.

A majority of Keralites who buy land here convert it into rubber plantations, while there are also people who take up arecanut, coconut, banana plantations. Govinda Bhat, a progressive farmer from Manila in Bantwal taluk, which is close to the Kerala border, says the Keralites purchasing land in the district started about four decades ago when they first set up rubber plantations in Sullia taluk.

"Kochi Christians are experts in rubber cultivation and are hard working. That is how they are able to get good returns out of the barren land. Initially, they came to Sullia and now they have spread to other taluks like Belthangady, Puttur, Bantwal and Kadaba," Bhat said. P5

> Most of the land they (Keralites) buy are the ones which are left barren. After buying, they turn them into plantations which will at least provide jobs to locals
>
> Rashid Vittla, Social Worker